

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY S/S-O: MCMULLEN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO JCS/SECDEF

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JCS/DOD IMMEDIATE

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WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

TREASURY IMMEDIATE

USCG IMMEDIATE

DIRNSA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 046738

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. IRAN-IRAQ CEASEFIRE: AGREEMENT WAS REACHED IN BAGHDAD MARCH 6, AND TEHRAN'S OFFICIAL NEWS SERVICE LATER REPORTED THAT FIRING CEASED ON SCHEDULE AT 0600 GMT MARCH 7. (STATE/TICKER)

2. SYRIA NOT OPPOSED TO PEACE SETTLEMENT: BUT, SAID PRESIDENT ASAD, IN A MARCH 6 INTERVIEW, SECRETARY KISSINGER "WANTS US TO FORGET ABOUT" PAST US POLICY "IN EXCHANGE FOR WORDS THAT ARE NOT ACCOMPANIED BY PRACTICAL DEEDS." HE ADDED THAT SYRIA WILL NOT GO TO GENEVA, DESPITE SOVIET PRODDING, WITHOUT TANGIBLE ASSURANCE THAT ITS RIGHTS AND INTEGRITY "WILL BE GUARANTEED." (STATE)

3. NEW EGYPTIAN CABINET: AL-AHRAM EDITOR ALI AMIN REPORTS THAT SADAT HAS DECIDED TO FORM A NEW, 20-MEMBER CABINET WITHIN THREE WEEKS. A LARGE INFUSION OF YOUNG BLOOD IS
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EXPECTED IN SUB-CABINET POSTS. (TICKER)

4. GUATEMALAN GOVERNMENT STEALS ELECTION: A WIDE SEGMENT OF THE POPULACE IS AWARE SUBSTANTIAL FRAUD WAS REQUIRED TO ELECT THE GOVERNMENT-BACKED CANDIDATE, GENERAL LAUGERUD. THE ONLY WAY A LAUGERUD TAKEOVER CAN BE

FRUSTRATED IS THROUGH AN EFFECTIVE NATIONWIDE STRIKE OR BY MASSIVE POPULAR CONFRONTATIONS WITH THE SECURITY FORCES. NEITHER IS LIKELY. IN VIEW OF THE ELECTION CIRCUMSTANCES, LAUGERUD WILL BE IN A WEAK POSITION AT LEAST INITIALLY, AND WHILE HE IS EXPECTED TO SEEK COR-DIAL US-GOG RELATIONS, HE WILL FIND IT DIFFICULT TO PUSH STRONGLY FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL REFORMS THE US BELIEVES ARE NECESSARY. (STATE) KISSINGER

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